



TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Little Shop of Horrors



A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Great Staff, Great Kids, Great Community, Great Things Happen

It is around this time of year that the fruits of our labour become obvious. Never more so than in the recent school production of "Little Shop of Horrors". Four years ago the P & C joined forces with the Federal Government to start a refurbishment of our school hall. We all enjoyed the freshly painted surrounds, the audio visual technology and the heating and cooling. Three cheers to the P & C. A need was also identified to showcase the talent of Taree High School students and teachers. Last year a curriculum initiative 'School Musical' was a success in so much as sixty students elected to participate. The talented Melissa Cotton (Drama) joined forces with high energy g Leanne Ralston (music) to direct and produce "Little Shop of Horrors". Auditions were held, parts allocated, songs and dances practised, props designed and assembled - an audible creative hum could be heard around the school. Standards were set to the very highest level as rehearsals went to weekends and holidays. Experts Mike Collins (co-direction) and Hamish McDonald (sound and light) joined the crew, offering time and expertise willingly. Peter Bull calmly and professionally worked to improve all things musical, 'Old hands' Toni Fatherley, Debbie Moody and Marilyn Crozier were joined by Judith Hall, Kim Gurr, Sue Finlayson, Barb Tate, Steve Foxwell, Col Husband, Glenda Hutchinson, Mel Walker, Susan Oldfield and Naomi Rotgans in choreography, sets, tickets, food, costumes and a plethora of other jobs. What happened next was quite remarkable. A Thursday matinee had people considering just how good this production actually was. Taree High students 'absolutely nailed it' over the next three days and nights to adoring, cheering, sell out crowds who were left crying for more. It is difficult to single out individuals in the student population that, across the board, took themselves to new heights of performance. BUT..... a special mention must go to Andrew Bowman and Caitlin McLeod for their portrayals of Seymour and Audrey. Neither failed for a moment to be in character nor sang a note off key. Jake Davey as Mushnick and Pat Abraham as the 'Dentist' had the audience in tears with their comic portrayals. The dancers danced, the band played, the singers sang and the people behind the scenes worked in total harmony. Not bad for a first attempt.

While all this was taking place we celebrated:

- Having over two hundred Year Six students from

around the area visit the school during open day.

- The "Primary Schools Combined Band Project".
- The appointment of Joel Kelly as Year 7 Advisor 2012/
- Leanne Ralston and Kathy Salmon's teaching awards.
- Glenda Hutchinson's teaching being recognised at a regional Principals' level.
- The handover of the Trade Training Centre.
- SASS Week. Without these people very little of the above could happen.
- Edward Eden being accepted into the prestigious National Science Forum.
- Two ex students, Jack Heron and Alex Rack (both studying medicine) being published in a Global Health Conference Journal.
- Almost eight hundred dollars being donated to World Vision.
- A cyber bullying workshop run at night by local police Brad Barry and Bruce Gaull.
- The quality of information and presentations at a range of parent information evenings, thanks to Val Kadarusman.
- A well organised and adventurous Year 11 Snow Trip. thanks to Al Davis and Greg Pickard.
- Student achievement with the HSC Trials.
- Ongoing professional learning for staff in the area of technology, thanks to Dan Proctor.
- A Senior Curriculum enhanced by negotiations with Chatham and Wingham High schools. It appears that we may have a language (Spanish) included in the curriculum for the first time in ages.
- A joint school Senior History Excursion.
- Twenty or so staff being involved in a "Fit for Work" program.
- A large portion of the junior school collecting data for the Healthy Schools initiative.
- Another State Final in the Science and Engineering Challenge.
- Student leadership with 2012 Captain/SRC nominations and elections.

And not the least the great teaching and learning that goes on every day as our core business.

Think I might have a cup of tea!



Mr P Bird

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Taree High School is the most vibrant of places! It is inclusive of all sorts of young people and totally comprehensive in its nature. The positive outcomes that are enjoyed at Taree High School are typified by those achieved during extra-curricular activities such as:

- Spirit Day
- The School Musical
- Cyberbullying Workshops
- Professional P & C Meetings
- The Year 11 Snow Excursion.

Our Year 12 cohort achieve absolute successes when:

- Completing major works in Extension 2 English, Textiles, Industrial Arts and Design subjects
- Attacking their HSC Trials with the gusto and enthusiasm of consummate students
- Finalising the Creative projects in Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Music.

If you do get a chance, involve yourselves as community members by coming to the display nights for these spectacular major works. You won't be disappointed!

Good luck to all students in your decision making throughout this term when:

- Year 8 choose subjects for next year
- Year 10 make crucial selections for their senior curriculum
- Year 12 make mature decisions regarding their adult lives.

Michael Crotty
Deputy Principal



DEPUTY'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the term. The last five weeks have flown by. I would like to give Taree High School's best wishes to Ms Allison Alliston as she works on bigger and greater ventures. I look forward to working with students, staff and parents over this semester as Deputy Principal, specifically with Years 7, 9 and 11 but with the whole school community in general. Cyber-bullying remains a current issue. Students in

Years 7-9 were able to hear from Constable Brad Barry of Taree Police about this issue and the problems that cyber-bullying can cause by attending workshops at the school in early August. Unfortunately, not all students have been able to learn from the workshops and so cyber-bullying is still a problem. Parents and carers had the opportunity to learn about cyber-bullying by attending an evening workshop as well. I would encourage all parents and carers to be aware of what is happening with their children in this regard.

Students in Years 7-10 have participated in online surveys as part of the "Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures" program organised by Hunter-New England Health so we look forward to what the results might show. Several students had their physical activities monitored by using pedometers and that has been a bit of fun too.

Currently, two issues the school is addressing are playground untidiness and inappropriate language.

While there are adequate bins provided for student use, some students choose to litter and so we are endeavouring to encourage all students to use bins so that everyone can enjoy a clean environment.

Some students also choose to express themselves in ways which are not socially acceptable or appropriate and so we are looking at strategies to encourage all students to be more positive school community members and to use more appropriate language.

Hopefully, by addressing these two issues, Taree High School will become an even more pleasant place for all.

Lastly, can I say what a pleasure it was to attend the school musical "The Little Shop of Horrors". What a wonderful example of the talents of all involved - students, teachers and community! Well done to all involved!

Christine Gray,
Deputy Principal.



DEPUTY'S REPORT

What a difference a term makes.

The building projects which were being carried out during Term 2 have all been completed. Students are benefiting from the newly refurbished canteen and the smiles on the workers' faces show just how pleased they are with their new facilities.

The official handover of the Trade Training Centre occurred this week and hospitality students have already begun to use the state of the art Industry Standard Hospitality facilities during class and in

running a cafe each Tuesday. What a fantastic addition to our already diverse teaching facilities.

See Page 11

Mrs R Starke
Deputy Principal



CAPTAINS' REPORT

Year 11 students have been asked to submit their captain nominations. The very mention of this brings back our own memories... memories of *waiting* outside the door for the interview, or being locked in a room *waiting* to do your speech and there's even more *waiting* for when you hear the final result. Seems like a pretty frightful business all this waiting, yeah? Throughout our year as captains we have learnt the wait is well worth it. Plus once you are elected there will be absolutely no waiting!

From the moment your names are read out you are launched into a field of responsibilities and opportunities.

These responsibilities include:

- Writing this report each month
- Accepting awards on behalf of the School
- Being a part of important ceremonies such as ANZAC day
- Representing the school in a positive light
- Organising the SRC to make sure we are always working in efficient/innovative ways towards improving the school
- Organising school events such as Spirit Day, fundraisers, socials etc.
- Writing and delivering speeches

Taking up any challenge that is presented to us.

Opportunities include:

- Attending leadership courses
- Meeting new people such as other Captains around the area
- Learning to work as a team
- Improving and developing time management, speech writing/delivery, diplomacy, event planning
- Meeting the Governor.
- The chance to have a higher say in school matters and make a positive difference.

Basically the opportunities are endless when it comes to being captain or even a part of the SRC. It is an opportunity in itself, leading you to many possibilities.

It doesn't matter if you don't get captain; the nomination process is a rewarding process for all. It is training for the future and improves your abilities in applications, interviews and speeches – all qualities that help in your schooling as well as future job applications. The two of us are also looking forward to our next responsibility as captains – being a part of the selection process. We will be sitting on the interview panel alongside Ms Walker, Mrs Hall and Mr Bird's representative, Deputy Principal Ms Gray

Students should not be scared off by the prospect of not being a part of the SRC before when nominating for captain. Characteristics of being a successful captain are inside many Taree High School students already. Captaincy and the SRC gives people the chance to grow skills and develop new leadership qualities. If captaincy seems like too great a step for some, SRC membership is definitely a rewarding experience as well.

We wish all the nominees luck and look forward to seeing the captain applicants in the interview and for their speeches.



James Kennedy



Laura Polson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are back for another term - second last one! It's not long until winter is over, and the nicer weather starts to pour upon the beautiful green gates of Taree High School.

The SRC has been very busy, coordinating Spirit Day, various fundraisers and other initiatives to beautify the school.

On a starting note I would like to ask you guys how you enjoyed Spirit Day? If you have any feedback or changes you would like to see for next year, do not hesitate to come up and tell one of your school reps and we will discuss it for future Spirit Days!

Even though last term was busy, there is contention for this term being even fuller on! With Year 12 being involved in their HSC Trials, Year 11 at the Snow and Year 10, 9, 8 being involved in the school musical as well as Captain/SRC nominations 2012, this term is jam packed. Along with these school events, the SRC ran a candy bar for the school musical where lollies, chips and POPCORN were available. Thank you for being supportive of the school musical and SRC as all profits made from the

candy bar have gone to the School Musical Fund. In terms of socials, it is quite disappointing on a personal level to see so few tickets being sold. The SRC is currently under talks and initiatives to get socials back on to their feet! If you have any ideas that may capture interest, please don't hesitate to come and tell a rep!

On a final note, my term of office is coming to a end which means School Captain and SRC nominations are underway currently. I support everyone who nominates for SRC memberships, as it is a very rewarding experience!

Your SRC Secretary,

Nicholas Johnson



DATES TO REMEMBER

23/8/11	P & C Meeting Hunter Boys Tennis
26/8/11	Last day of Trials HSC
5/9/11	Drama Workshop
7/9/11	Social
8/9/11	Out of Uniform Day
8-10/9/11	CHS Athletics
12-19/9/11	Preliminary Exams
15/9/11	7-10 Parent Teacher Evening
20/9/11	SRC Induction Assembly
21/9/11	Year 12 Presentation Evening
22/9/11	Year 12 Beach Day
23/9/11	End of Term 3
10/10/11	Term 4 begins

YEAR 12 REPORT

Hi guys

As this report goes to print we will be sitting in the hall for our Trials. Good luck everyone! To prepare for our formal on 17 November and to have our Year Book complete, we need your profiles and uploaded photos by 29 August. The Formal and Year Book committees will meet straight after the Trials as both

initiatives need to be organised and paid for by the end of this term. I would like to congratulate Taree High on the whole on their performance at the Senior Social .



Tom Crellin

YEAR 11 REPORT

As I sit down putting pen to paper to write this report, the familiar sensation of butterflies floating their way up my spine reminds me of the single most important event on the Year 11 calendar. THE SNOW TRIP ! With only a handful of classes having assessment tasks due this week, the trialling of snow gear, discussion of cabin-mates and premature packing of suitcases seem to be the only things on the agenda for most Year 11 students. The extra keen (a description that may or may not include me) already have their bags packed and ready to go! In fact, by the time you read this in a week's time, we will have rocketed down the slopes (safely of course...).

With only six more weeks of school left until we enter our final year of school, the hard realization that we have to start taking school seriously has crept into the minds of most. This thought was amplified by the Careers Expo held at Chatham High. A thought provoking experience/further education opportunities we sit just a bit over twelve months away from. Scary, huh?

Anyway, I'd better get back to my search for the warmest pair of thermally insulated socks in Taree. Take care !



Jotham Young

YEAR 10 REPORT

Hey guys,
Hope everything is going well. I would like to say congratulations to every one who was involved in the school musical - it was great! Hope everyone is working hard towards their School Certificate.



Bec Deer

YEAR 9 REPORT

Hello everyone

Wow, I honestly cannot believe how fast this year is going! August already?! Before we know it we'll be in Year 10.

Firstly, "The Little Shop of Horrors". Thank you to everyone who came and supported the musical. I hope you had as much fun watching as we did performing! I could go on for pages but I'll try and make it short: A huge congratulations is in order for the leads: Caitlin McLeod, Andrew Bowman, Patrick Abraham, Jake Davey, Jakob Coote, Jessie Collins, Trudy Potts and Brooke Shaw! Also, thank you to all of the wonderful staff who contributed their time and effort to ensure the musical was a success. Yet another thank you goes to the SRC who ran the candy bar. A gigantic thank you and congratulations goes to Mrs Cotton and Mrs Ralston, there was no way the musical could have happened without you. I have one more thank you. Thanks for your generous donations to World Vision Fundraiser.

I hope everyone handed their elective sheets in on time and were happy with their selections.

That's all for now,

Madeline Heron



YEAR 8 REPORT

The first few weeks of Term 3 have been pretty good. Year 7 and 8 have been to two different cyber bullying workshops which were really good. We need to keep our area clean and tidy. We just have to remember to put our rubbish in the bin.

Tyler McLean



YEAR 7 REPORT

Halfway through Term 3 already! So many things going on that we need to remember, like SRC nominations. Don't forget, they end this week. Remember to vote in Week 8. Also in Week 8, we have a school social in the hall. Social tickets will be selling soon so remember to support the school and buy a ticket.

CO-OPERATE! Our main focus this year. There's a lovely new mural behind the canteen with our core

rule. So give a helping hand and get along so at the end of the day, we can all say that we followed and listened to our rule.

The Year 7 area is starting to get really messy. Remember to clean up, pick up after yourself and use the bin.

If we remember all of these things, we will enjoy school each and every day!



Lucy Bird



Sinead Haynes

YEAR 9 ADVISOR'S REPORT

Core of Life Year 9

Taree High Year 9 students will participate in the Core of Life on 29 August and 1 September. Midwives from Manning Referral Hospital will conduct the course for groups of 20 students for two hours. Students will attend in roll groups in Periods 1 and 2 and Periods 3 and 4 the same on Thursday. It will be very interesting and relevant to this age group of students.

Please bring your manners and best behaviour to this workshop.

Yours in Education,

Mrs Silcock



YEAR 8 ADVISOR'S REPORT

Although a long way off, plans are being made for the **GoldCoast trip in 2012**. 5-9 November 2012 are the dates to put aside if you want to join about 100 other students on a once in a lifetime opportunity for 5 days and 4 nights of excitement at some of the "Worlds" on the GoldCoast. More details will follow as we get closer but at this stage the cost will be around **\$500** (based on this year's costs) and an account has already been set up at A15. It is possible to start making payments now and it is a good idea to make regular payments over the next 12 months to ease the financial impact. The money will be credited to your child's name and kept until final payments are due.

Early **payment of a deposit is no guarantee** of a child's place on the trip as it is also important that all school fees are paid. Also, a child's behaviour and uniform compliance throughout the year will also be a consideration.

On that note, it still concerns me about the number of students who insist on wearing canvas shoes. While I encourage pupils to be individuals and I delight in the range of personalities that there are in Year 8 there is also strong need for all people in a society to conform to "the rules." I know as a parent myself that some battles are not worth fighting and that this is an easy one to let your child win. However, as a teacher I know that a child refusing to wear uniform is an early warning sign of deeper issues. Please help us keep your kids looking and behaving like students who are keen to learn and do their best.

Steve Foxwell



'Little Shop of Horrors'

A Director's Report

*"What an amazing performance"
 "better than anything that I have seen in years"
 "Could not believe that they were kids, they were so professional"
 "Just amazing"
 "that was not a school musical it was a professional production"*

The above are just some of the many praises that members from the community in the audience expressed to me after the show.

Taree High School Musical students proved to be exceptionally talented dramatists who put on five entertaining and professional performances of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Local Primary School students giggled and watched in awe in the matinee performances. Parents, family members, friends and members of the community laughed and applauded in the night performances. The Matinees and Thursday night performances were so impressive that both the Friday and Saturday performances sold out to eager audiences.

The love, excitement, tears and energy of the performances made it clear why Taree High students are so special. Despite the pain and suffering of rehearsal after rehearsal the joys that came from the



performances made for a worthwhile experience. Both myself and the students are sad to see it all over. Many want to tour 'Little Shop of Horrors' nationally, because they never want the excitement to end.

The musical could not have been the success that it was without the support of many people. A huge thank you to Leanne

Ralston for all of her hard work and amazing musical skills and knowledge. A huge thank you is also needed for the following amazing people for their time, experience, support and love (in alphabetical order):

Peter Bird, Peter Bull, Mike Collins, Marilyn Crozier, Gary Curtis, Toni Fatherley, Sue Finlayson, Steve Foxwell, Terry Green, Kimberley Gurr, Judith Hall, Col Husband, Glenda Hutchinson, Hamish McDonald, Debbie Moody, Suzie Oldfield, Naomi Rotgans, Kim Shaw, Kathy Salmon, Barbara Tate and Melanie Walker.

Another big thank you to the SRC for running the Candy Bar, our THS P&C for their financial contribution, and to Taree Arts Council for the loan of all of their wonderful props and costumes.

Most importantly a huge congratulations to the talented Taree High School students who performed in 'Little Shop of Horrors'.



Mrs Melissa Cotton

'Little Shop of Horrors'

Leader of the Plaque Report



On 11,12 and 13 August Years 9 and 10 students put on the musical "Little Shop of Horrors". The students had been working on this musical all year. Not only the students but the teachers have put in an enormous effort for months and it finally paid off. With two matinee performances during the day and three night performances, the shows were a huge success. All were either sold out or close to. The dancers, crew, actors, musicians, singers and leads all put in a huge effort in both the night and day performances. The show went off without a hitch



and was extremely well received by everyone in the audience. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported it by buying tickets, helping with sets, props, hair and makeup, promotions, fundraising and publicity. Thank you to all those teachers who have helped out on and off stage for the numerous hours they have committed to making the show a success. Thank you to all the cast and crew for the dedication that you have shown towards the show. But finally, the biggest accolades must go to Mrs Cotton and Mrs Ralston. The amount of work they have put in is phenomenal. Thank you everyone for making this musical a huge success in 2012.



Patrick Abraham

'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'

"A positive achievement by our youth"
MRT Times 17 August 2011

With all the world 'negatives' circulating - here's a local 'positive'. We had the pleasure of experiencing self-disciplined youths - different groups working in harmony, contributing to a common purpose. Talents being developed and extended and pride and in ownership of the 'product' that the combination had created.

What a triumph for the participants, the dedicated teachers and support workers - together with members of the community, who offered mentoring, technical advice and support.

The presentation of 'The Little Shop of Horrors' by the Taree High School was a most memorable and enjoyable event - very definitely worthy of a standing ovation for all connected with such a 'positive' opportunity for students and our community.

Alec and June Mills - Taree



HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF !

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist, wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes".

Host an international high school student in February 2012 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family become closer, to understand each other better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in February for one or two semesters from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan, the USA and Canada. They will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, will be fully insured and have their own spending money.

Call SCCE now on 1800 500 501, email scceust@scce.com.au or visit our website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience. Request our booklet of student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Thanks and kind regards,

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager

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Canteen News

Our new canteen is running smoothly and our new menu boards are still on their way.

New items on the menu:

- Ham and Cheese toasted sandwiches
- Spaghetti Bolognese
- Butter Chicken and Rice
- Chilli Con Carne and Corn Chips

Dana & Sandy



Modern History

Jewish Museum Excursion

The day started as any early morning trip a Sydney excursion demands.

While we shivered waiting for the bus, many students clung to the hope Sydney would be sunny, while Kairo just wished he had brought a bigger coffee cup.

We set off and half of the bus was asleep by the time we picked up Mrs Hall from the Nabiac Pub where she claimed she had stayed since the previous afternoon for “medical treatment” of the ailment that is Year 11 English Extension 1. Consequently, she had to spend a further eight hours with those same people.

When we finally arrived in Sydney (Darlinghurst) Modern History students clambered off the bus with Ms Gray only to find ourselves to be a rag-tag group of six instead of the promised twenty. Extension 1 were only too eager to fill the empty places. Being 45 minutes early led to wandering aimlessly around Darlinghurst until Adam and Kairo entertained us in a park, along with the local bums and eccentric individuals while Ms Gray was only worried we’d be knifed or mugged.

Once we entered the Jewish Memorial Museum (after Edward was thoroughly searched) a hush fell over a usually rowdy group of teenagers. This was similar to the silence observed in the Terracotta Warrior Exhibit we visited earlier in the year.

We were all ushered into a room and watched a short introductory film that outlined what diligent students should have already learnt. While the movie itself was dull, the special speaker was in no way boring. George was a survivor of the Holocaust and told us his story from when the Nazis first invaded Poland, his attempt to help his mother and small sister as they were taken away to Auschwitz, his slave labor in five concentration camps, the meaning of true friendship, the death of his father, death marches, liberation and finding sanctuary in our very own Australia. It was truly an experience that could never be paralleled with another. After close to an hour in a classroom, we were allowed to freely wander the museum.

Although the entire exhibit was exceptionally moving, two things in particular caught my eye: The quote “All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing” etched in a wall and the children’s memorial which was a small cramped alcove filled with an unbearable silence. Upon the entrance read “the glass sculpture within the

chamber holds 1.5 million water drops to represent the tears of the children who died”. Across from the sculpture was a wall of squares, some were filled with a photo and a name, some with merely a name and tragically some were filled with as many as six names. The sound of dripping water directed our attention behind us where single water drops splashed sadly into a basin, already full with water, illuminated by shimmering orange light. “Hear the children weep as they walk towards the flames”.

Of course the effect of our sobering experience was some what lessened when Maddy Riley slipped down the stairs in the foyer.

Having an extra half hour to wander for lunch while we waited for Legal Studies and English to leave the Police and Justice Museum, it appeared we had come to Sydney to experience the culinary arts of McDonalds. Admittedly some sought out a Greek cafe, but when standing in the face of the vast unknown, most sought comfort in the golden arches on the horizon.



Jacqui Hockey

Year 11/12 Excursion to Justice Police Museum - Circular Quay, Sydney

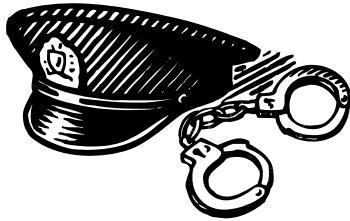
As part of English Extension 1 and Legal Studies the students undertook an excursion to the Justice and Police Museum in Sydney. The aim of the excursion was to explore true crime stories and the workings of the Australian Legal System.

A 6.15 am start saw the coach leave Taree to ensure an arrival time that allowed a relaxing lunch and walk around Circular Quay.

The museum is a fascinating place which used to be a Sydney police station and magistrate museum to showcase the history of policing and justice in NSW, particularly the wild past of the Rocks. Students were taken on a guided tour of the court and police station as well as viewing an exhibition of true crime stories and being involved in using real crime stories and being involved in real crime scene photos as a stimulus for creative writing. They also spent some time prior to our departure viewing the latest exhibition on the history and work of ASIO in Australia, particularly during the post WW2, Cold War era. We arrived safely back in Taree at 7.15

pm. It was a long day but a really worthwhile experience.

Judy Hall



**TAREE HIGH MAJOR WORK
EXHIBITION**

Opening: 30 August 6.30 pm

Close: 1 September

All Welcome



Refugee Visit

Refugee Visit

At the end of last term, 24 young adult refugees came to visit Taree High and shared with us some of their stories. After chatting with students in the hall, they entertained us with a traditional African dance and song, before joining in with Wednesday afternoon sport.

The visit was organised to give students insight into the lives of kids our own age who hadn't been fortunate enough to be born in this country. When we hear stories of illegal immigrants and "boat people" splashed across the media, it's important to remember those who take the right path in joining Australian society. Being able to meet some of these

brave individuals was an eye-opening experience. After hearing their stories, it impacted on us just how blessed we are to be born in Australia.

The refugees, who have been settled in various parts of Newcastle for some time, came from a number of different countries including the Congo, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Sudan and Mauritania. Many fled violence and unstable societies and some left behind family members killed in conflict. Although conversation was a little slow and awkward at first, we ended up learning a lot about what it's like to have to adjust to a new culture. Life in Australia contrasts starkly to life in Africa and for many of the refugees, English is their third language. The free and relatively peaceful nature of Australian society was a pleasant change for those we spoke to, but they really missed the close-knit communities that they had left behind.

The visit was the first of its kind to be conducted in the state and overall, was a great success for everyone involved. Taree High students enjoyed getting a glimpse into the lives of kids with very different backgrounds and the visiting refugees had a great time sharing with us and exploring the Manning area.



Sam Kellahan



ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Recently students and teachers have been working really hard together to help the environment in our local area. Students outside of the SRC are also getting involved and are greatly appreciated for helping out.



A group of 24 Year 8 volunteers are now working together to collect recycling from staff rooms, offices and

print rooms to reduce the amount of un-necessary waste going to the tip. It's really great to see students giving up their time to help reduce our ecological footprint. Well done guys!

A brand new recycling station is being set up near the canteen close to the notice board. There will be two bins, one with a yellow lid for general mixed recycling and one with a green lid for aluminium cans. We will also put up a sign to help you remember what can go in each bin. Please use these bins for all your recyclable waste to help make our school more beautiful!

After recent floods, an excessive amount of dangerous waste was washed into Brown's Creek, including large chemical drums. Our Environment Committee went down to check it out and took pictures of all the waste that was washed into the creek. We reported the pollution to the Council, who contacted the owners and had it removed.

We are currently planning a student environmental leadership camp for interested students from local high schools to get together and combine their ideas and actions to help improve the environment of our community.



Lilly Baker

Taree High School's Hospitality Trade Training Centre

On Tuesday 9 August the new hospitality training facilities were officially handed over for use by our Years 11 and 12 Hospitality students. The facilities

look fantastic and will provide our students with an excellent opportunity to receive training in industry standard facilities and equipment without leaving the school. What a fantastic facility for our students.

Mrs R Starke



Regional Athletics

From a great school carnival at Taree High, where Peel was victorious, Mrs Phillips worked extremely hard to organise our team to go to zone. But! Once again it rained and rained and rained. So we moved straight to the Regional Carnival.

It was an early morning, for most as we got ready to race, jump or throw. All of the events went well and there were a lot of competitors there. The weather was amazing at Newcastle on the day, nice and warm. I'm sure all the competitors walked away knowing they gave their absolute best. Everybody is very grateful for Mrs Phillips' efforts that went into the day to make it run smoothly for all of the Taree competitors. I can almost guarantee that everyone had an amazing day.

Competitors were:

Aiden Anderson	12	Lucas Mepham	12
Kyle Extreme	12	Jacob Hawkins	12
Danielle Jeffrey	12	Lucy McKillop Davies	12
Chloe McGowan	12	Sarah Dunstan	12
Carly Gander	13	Lee Angwin	13
Rhys Jackson	13	Nick Croker	13
Warwick Priest	14	Tom Gilbert	14
Korey Christie	15	Gemma Bylos	17+

Congratulations to Lee Angwin, Gemma Bylos and Tom Gilbert who will now be moving on to NSW CHS Athletics carnival in September, representing Taree High School and the Hunter Region.



A big thank you to all the parents that provided transport for our team to go to Newcastle. Without your help we would miss out on a lot of our many sporting opportunities.

Lucas Mephram and Mrs Phillips

EDUCATION TAX REFUND

The Australian Government is helping you with the costs of educating your kids.

Update

The Government has changed the Education Tax Refund to include school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011.

Items of clothing (including hats, footwear and sports uniforms approved by a school as its uniform) may be claimed from 1 July 2012.



So from 1 July 2011 start keeping receipts for school uniform items so you can claim them next year.

The Education Tax Refund provides up to 50% back on a range of children's education expenses.

For the 2010-11 tax year refunds may be as much as \$397 for every child at primary school, and up to \$794 for every child at secondary school. The amount of the refund increased each year by the Consumer price Index.

The site below helps you decide if you are eligible and explains what you can claim and how to claim everything you are entitled to.

Keep your receipts. You need them to calculate your refund and you may need to show them as proof of purchase.

Ready to claim? Click here to find out how <http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/>

P & C Report

First up.... Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Little Shop of Horrors* – what a show! We had an excellent presentation from Laura Rigby

(Child and Adolescent Mental Health team) at our July P&C meeting: anyone wanting to receive a brief summary, send through an email to beth@tsn.cc

The presentations run from 5.00-5.30 pm, and you are most welcome to stay for the P&C meeting, should your time pressures allow.

Two things in the pipeline... and more information will follow:

1. We are thinking of putting a THS P&C Facebook page together. Any thoughts on the content that would be helpful for you?

We have had an approach from a company who would like to set up a School Uniform Shop. It's early days in the discussions, but if you have any thoughts we would be happy to hear them.

2. Would you like to be added to the P&C mailing list? Just send an email to:

thspandc@gmail.com or beth@tsn.cc and we'll add you to the list to receive the minutes of the P&C meetings and updates on projects.

Month	Date	presentation (30 minutes)
August	23	Science: <i>"the universe and beyond"</i> – Mr N Blanch PDHPE: Ms G Phillips
October	25	VETAB and National Partnership – Ms R Starke HSIE & the Shared Curriculum – Ms C Gray
November	22	Numeracy – Ms M McCallum "wrap up for the year" – Mr P Bird

Report on 2011 Funding Project

Congratulations to all the THS departments that participated in our 2011 funding round. The P&C allocated \$19,492.22 in this round of funding.

This funding initiative marked quite a departure for the P&C from our usual dispersion of funds. What followed was an invigorating exercise, which reaffirmed the P&C's role in the school, positioning the committee as an advocate to support both students and staff and providing the school with

some excellent new resources to support learning. The project has been successful on a number of levels:

1. we have developed positive relationships with school faculties and departments
 2. these positive relations have provided an array of “guest speakers” at P&C meetings, to allow us to better understand how resources have been applied, and how the school priorities are reflected within faculties
 3. we have achieved recognition as a responsive funding alternative within the THS.
 4. for the most part, funding projects have been successful in their activities, enhancing learning opportunities for students, and better equipping teachers in their classroom activities.
- Future allocation of P&C funds to support faculty-based activity is for determination. *Watch this space!!*

Beth Fuller - Taree High P & C President 2011



Children’s Book Week and National Literacy and Numeracy Week will be recognised and celebrated during week 7, that is 29th August — 2nd September. We will be launching the much expanded graphic novel section of our collection and the Book Week short listed books will be on display and available to borrow.

Literacy is indeed central to all activities at school and everything you can do to encourage your students with reading is to be applauded. One helpful thing that you can do to encourage your son or daughter to read is to make sure that they bring something to read to school, apart from their lesson material, each day for *dear* (drop everything and read) It can be a novel, short story, newspaper, magazine etc, so long as it encourages sustained reading on an appropriate topic. Lets all keep reading

Heather Abbott .. Teacher Librarian

Congratulations

Kathy Salmon	Regional Director’s Award “Excellence in Teaching
Leanne Ralston	School Nomination for Regional Director’s Award
Edward Eden	National Youth Science Forum 2012
Melissa Loundon, Leanne Ralston and everybody involved in the marvellous production “Little Shop of Horrors”	
Musical Raffle winners	1st Gail Phillips 2nd Alan Akerstrom 3rd Linda Bates 4th Dawn Coleman 5th Rosemary Falson

Also thanks again to our raffle sponsors.

**Travel World Taree
Saxby’s Pharmacy
McDonalds**

Thanks to all those great people who supported our fundraising efforts through their purchase of tickets

Jason Hourn - safe arrival of baby Damon 

WELL DONE

MELISSA COTTON AND LEANNE RALSTON

